(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 10 July 2003 (10.07.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 03/056454 A1

(51) International Patent Classification7:

G06F 17/30

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP02/14266

(22) International Filing Date:

14 December 2002 (14.12.2002)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

01131036.4

28 December 2001 (28.12.2001)

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THOM-SON LICENSING S.A. [FR/FR]; 46 Quai A. le Gallo, F-92100 Boulogne-Billancourt (FR).

(72) Inventors; and

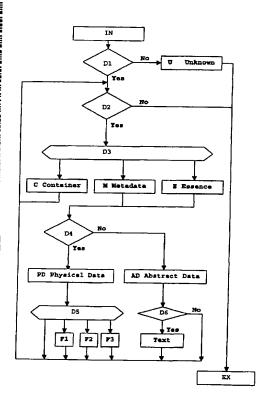
(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): WINTER, Marco

[DE/DE]; Böhmerstr. 17, 30173 Hannover (DE). ADOLPH, Dirk [DE/DE]; Wallbrink 2, 30952 Ronnenberg (DE). HÖRENTRUP, Jobst [DE/DE]; Vossstr. 35, 30161 Hannover (DE).

- (74) Agent: RITTNER, Karsten; European Patent Operations, Karl-Wiechert-Allee 74, 30625 Hannover (DE).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATIC DETECTION OF DATA TYPES FOR DATA TYPE DEPENDENT **PROCESSING**



(57) Abstract: A method for automatic detection of data types for data type dependent processing has two orthogonal classification systems defined, and determines for incoming data items a data type according to the first classification system and another data type according to the second classification system. The first classification system comprises the data types Essence (E), Metadata (M) and Container (C). The second classification system comprises the data types Physical Data (PD) and Abstract Data (AD). A default data type may be defined for data items not being uniquely classifiable. Advantageously, the inventive method can be used when different classes of data items require different methods for processing, e.g. content searching.

WO 03/056454